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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/779,725

02/18/2004

Jean-Louis Gueret

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12/07/2006

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EXAMINER

RUNNING, RACHEL A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3732

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/779,725

Applicant(s)

GUERET, JEAN-LOUIS

Examiner

Rachel A. Running

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 and 34-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27, 29-32, 34-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-6, 10-18, 20, 23, 25-27, 30, 34, and 37-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stange (DE 296 14 364). Stange discloses an applicator comprising a base portion (2) carrying an applicator element (4) capable of fixing onto a receptacle (see Figures 1 and 2); and a handle portion (3) rotably mounted on the base portion to turn about a fixed axis of rotation, wherein the axis of rotation and the longitudinal axis of the handle portion are not mutually perpendicular (see Figures 2 and 3). The axis of rotation and the longitudinal axis are not parallel, and the axis of rotation and an axis of the base are not mutually perpendicular. The base portion and the handle portion co-operate to enable a user to secure the handle portion in at least two predefined position relative to the base (see Figures 2 and 3). The handle portion (12) and the base portion (11) co-operate to produce a click sound (see Figure 2). At least one of the base portion and the handle portion has a relief (5), which allows the base portion and the handle portion to provide a good grip (see Figure 1). The base portion includes a surface that is inclined relative to the axis of the base portion and the

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axis of rotation extends substantially orthogonally to the inclined surface (see Figure 2). At least one of the base portion and the handle portion includes a pin (9), which is engaged in a housing in the base portion (see Figure 2). The handle portion includes an insert (10) that enables the handle portion to be fixed onto the base portion by snap-fastening (see Figure 2). The applicator includes a stem having a first end which comprises a brush (4) and a second end (see Figure 2).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-5, 7-18, 20, 23, 25-27, 30-32, and 34-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vasas (US 6,237,609) in view of Stange. Vasas discloses an applicator comprising a base portion carrying an applicator element (12) fixed onto a receptacle (10) and a handle portion (26) mounted on the base portion (see Figure 1 and column 3, lines 45-55). The handle portion has a longitudinally axis. The base portion comprises a closure cap for the receptacle and the base portion is fixed onto the neck of the receptacle by screwing (see Figure 1 and column 3, lines 59-65). The applicator comprises a brush (50) with a non-rectilinear core see Figure 1 (column

4, lines 30-33). The receptacle includes a wiper member (20) arranged to wipe the applicator element while the applicator is being removed see Figure 1 (column 3, lines 45-50). The applicator is configured for applying a product on at least one of the lips, eyelids, eyelashes, eyebrows, and hairs of the user. Vasas does not disclose the handle portion rotatably mounted on the base portion to turn about a fixed axis of rotation, wherein the axis of rotation and the longitudinal axis of the handle portion are not mutually perpendicular. Stange teaches a base portion (2) carrying an applicator element (4) and a handle portion (3) rotatably mounted on the base portion to turn about a fixed axis of rotation, wherein the axis of rotation and the longitudinal axis of the handle portion are not mutually perpendicular (see Figures 2 and 3). The axis of rotation and the longitudinal axis are not parallel, and the axis of rotation and an axis of the base are not mutually perpendicular. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the base and handle portion of Vasas with the handle portion rotatably mounted on the base portion to turn about a fixed axis of rotation wherein the axis of rotation and the longitudinal axis of the handle are not mutually perpendicular as taught by Stange to provide the user with an advanced ergonomic handle that allows the user to use multiple angles of tilt while applying mascara.

6. Claims 7-9, 31, 32, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stange in view of Shay (US 397,028). Stange discloses the claimed invention except for the base portion comprising a closure cap for a receptacle, the

base portion being arranged to be fixed onto a neck of a receptacle by snap fitting, and the fixing means are leaktight. Shay teaches the base portion of a shaving brush (4) comprising a closure cap for a receptacle (1). The base portion is arranged to be fixed to the receptacle by screwing and is leaktight (see Figure 2 and column 2, lines 65-70). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the shaving brush of Stange to be fixed onto a receptacle as taught by Shay to provide the user with a shaving mug having a convenient means to suspend the brush when not in use.

7. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stange in view of Yamada (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,875). Stange discloses the claimed invention except for the pin being a split pin. Yamada teaches a split pin which secures a handle to base see Figure 4 and 5 (column 2, lines 40-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the pin of Stange be a split pin as taught by Yamada in order to allow the pin to fit into the hollow of the base and then lock into place by expanding.

8. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stange. Stange discloses the base portion including a pin arranged to be snap-fastened into the corresponding opening in the handle portion instead of the handle portion including a pin arranged to be snap-fastened into a corresponding opening in the base portion. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made have the handle portion include a pin arranged to be snap-fastened into a corresponding opening in the base portion, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. In re Japikse, 86 USPQ 70.

9. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stange in view of Riemann (U.S. Patent No. 4,922,575). Stange discloses the claimed invention except for the handle portion including fins and a body to which the fins are attached. Riemann teaches having fins (24b) on a handle portion see Figure 9 (column 1, lines 55-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the handle portion of Stange with fins as taught by Riemann to provide the mechanical advantage of torque and improved gripping.

10. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stange in view of Kingsford (U.S. Patent No. 5,137,038). Stange discloses the claimed invention except for the base portion and handle portion including at least one marker and the other base portion and handle portion including an index. Kingsford teaches having a base portion with an index (6) and a handle portion with a marker (5) see Figures 1 and 2 (column 3, lines 10-15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the handle and base of Stange with an index and maker as taught by Kingsford in order to allow the user to move the handle and base to the next position by aligning the maker and index.

11. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stange in view of Samaras et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,164,856). Stange discloses the claimed invention except for the applicator element being removable from the base portion. Samaras et al. teaches an interchangeable applicator portion see Figure 1 (column 3, lines 1-10). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the applicator portion of Stange be removable as taught by Samaras et al. in order to allow the user to interchange the brushes in order to allow a different user to use a different applicator.

### **Response to Arguments**

12. Applicant's arguments, see pages 7-9, filed November 20, 2006 with respect to the rejection(s) of Gueret 011 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Vasas, Stange, and Haas.

13. Applicant argues that Strange does not disclose, " an angle between the axis of the base portion and the axis of the handle portion is always strictly inferior to 90 ° when the handle portion is rotated about the axis of rotation" emphasis added as stated in claim 34. Strange is capable of having the angle between the axis of the base portion and the axis of the handle portion always being strictly inferior to 90°, since the handle is rotated in steps of 5-45 degrees. Furthermore applicant argues that in Figure 3 of Stange the rotation of the angle becomes perpendicular, however, Examiner takes the



position that the user can rotate the device and never use the perpendicular step as seen in Figure 3 and therefore meet the claim limitation always strictly inferior to 90 degrees.

**14.** Applicant argues that Strange is not configured to be fixed onto a receptacle as recited in claim 1. The intended use statement "configured for" is not given weight in an article claim; the applicator of Strange could be fixed to a receptacle and thus is deemed to be so "configured".

#### ***Conclusion***

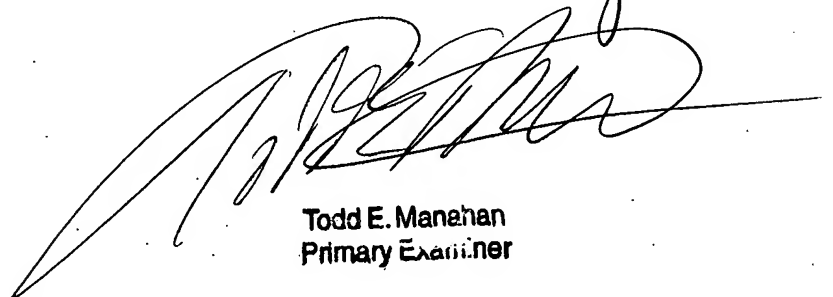
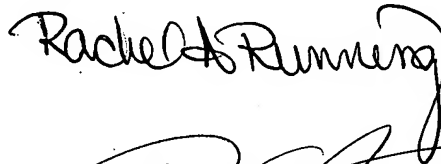
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rachel A. Running whose telephone number is (571) 272-1917. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cris Rodriguez can be reached on (571) 272-4964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Rachel A. Running  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3732



Todd E. Manahan  
Primary Examiner